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difficulty, but he nevertheless gives reasons, under four heads, to disprove the disease theory, and says in the fourth that "she can sing and eat at the same time."

From the facts given above it will be observed how the circumstances under which these mice sang agreed: when ejected from bed, when eating or gnawing, and, as I have shown, when forced to run rapidly about a room, in which act there could be no pleasure. Neither was it happy feelings that prompted the song when I meddled with her babies, when she cowered at the other end of the cage, evincing all the anxiety that is usually shown by animals under such circumstances. In birds we know the cause of song for rivalry or for pleasure, but we always hear quite other notes than those expressive of pleasure, when we look at their precious eggs.

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#### EDITOR'S TABLE.

EDITORS: E. D. COPE AND J. S. KINGSLEY.

As suggestions looking to the adoption of some flower as emblematic of our country are now being made, we present some opinions on the topic. The conditions to be satisfied are: 1st, that the flower shall be conspicuous; 2d, that it shall be available for architectural carving; and 3d, that it shall be characteristically American. These conditions exclude many plants that have been named. Propositions in favor of introduced plants, such as the *Convolvulus*, are out of the question. Members of the *Compositæ* are mostly undistinguishable in sculpture, and such forms as the golden-rod, which has met with much favor, are unavailable for architecture. The mountain laurel (*Rhododendron*), is objectionable, since the genus is widely distributed in other regions; and the same objection holds true of the *Magnolias*. The Indian Corn and the Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar*) are both destitute of conspicuous flowers. We wish to call attention to two species which satisfy all the conditions. These are the *Kalmia latifolia* ("laurel"), and the *Liriodendron tulipifera* ("tulip-tree"). Both are of wide distribution; both are conspicuous in various

ways, and both belong to genera exclusively North American. Both lend themselves well to the sculptor's art. Between them there is little choice, but we rather lean to the tulip-tree, which, besides its conspicuous flowers and very characteristic leaves, is one of the monarchs of our woods. It thus well represents our characteristic richness in forests, and expresses, figuratively, the strength and greatness of our country.

The scientific editor of the *New York Tribune* will be probably on hand at the Toronto meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, to misrepresent the science of the United States. According to this luminary, the only important scientific meeting held in America up to 1884, was that of the British Association at Montreal that year. As Toronto is not on American soil, he will probably find this year's meeting the next most important. The left-handed compliments paid by this gentlemen to American science will, perhaps, suggest to the readers of his articles that the mind of their author acts inversely as the square of the distance of its objects. We wish we could find an integration of the matter of these articles at all correspondent to the dissipation of energy wasted in writing them.

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## RECENT LITERATURE.

SCUDDER'S MESOZOIC COCKROACHES.<sup>1</sup>—On comparing mesozoic with palæozoic cockroaches the author finds the fundamental distinction is in the change which the principal nerves of the upper wings have undergone, by the basal or total amalgamation of some of them—a change which reaches its culmination in living species. In the basis of these differences he divides the mesozoic cockroaches into three groups: *a*, those in which only the mediastinal and scapular veins are amalgamated; *b*, those in which the externomedian is united with one of the veins on either side of it; *c*, those in which either

<sup>1</sup> A Review of Mesozoic Cockroaches. By Samuel H. Scudder: Extract from the Memoirs of the Boston Society of Natural History. 1886.